

in February 1999, but the result was held up due to a stay order of the High Court.

2. Regularisation of 37 days strike period:

This has as yet not been agreed to on the principle of 'no work no pay'.

3. Withdrawal of Transfer policy and abolition of Hard Case Committee:

A new transfer policy has been framed to ensure greater transparency in deciding the transfer/postings of officers.

4. Immediate implementation of the ACP scheme:

About 2400 Junior Engineers who have completed 12 years of service are eligible to be considered under ACP Scheme. Their service records, which are scattered in different field formations of CPWD, are to be scanned. Necessary steps in this regard have already been initiated. Orders in respect of 22 Junior Engineers have already been issued and action in respect of other eligible Junior Engineers is in progress.

5. Recommendation of initial pay scale of Rs. 6500-10500:

This demand was considered, but was not agreed to in view of possible repercussions.

6. Immediate filling up of all the vacant posts of Junior Engineers:

At present Government is reviewing all the vacant posts in the Department. Necessary steps for filling up the vacant posts shall be taken after the review is completed.

Transfer of Cardamom to Ministry of Agriculture

*13. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to transfer cardamom to the Ministry of Agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Cardamom growers have represented against this move of the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The recommendations of the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce headed by Shri I.K. Gujral and the Commission on Review of Administrative Laws have proposed that the work relating to the development of cardamom be entrusted to the Ministry of Agriculture. The recommendation are under consideration.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Cardamom growers have represented against the proposal and have requested that work relating to development of cardamom should remain with the Spices Board. The Government are considering this aspect also.

FDI in Plantation Companies

*14. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to allow seventy-four per cent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in plantation companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, particularly when plantation is not a priority sector; and

(c) the steps, if any, taken to safeguard the interests of workers of tea and coffee plantation and processing companies which are highly labour-intensive?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Impact of Import Quota Removals

*15. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made a study of the impact quota removals by April, 2001 on various segments of the economy;

(b) if so, what are the findings thereof; and

(c) what measures are being taken to ensure that India's farmers and